

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 EB-08 TRSE-00 AID-05
OMB-01 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 NSC-05
/072 W

-----102537 300851Z /12

R 292044Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4095
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 20805

DEPARTMENT PASS E FOR COOPER: AF FOR MOOSE: EB FOR
HORMATS: AND EUR FOR VINE

PASS TREASURY FOR BUTCHER AND AID FOR BRONHEIM

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, FR
SUBJECT: GISCARD SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR
AFRICA

REF: A) PARIS 20160 B) STATE 162632 C) PARIS 20055
(NOTAL)

SUMMARY

BASED ON RECENT FEEDBACK, EMBASSY AGREES WITH
ASSESSMENT REFTEL B THAT FRENCH WERE GENERALLY
ENCOURAGED BY OUTCOME OF JUNE 22-23 MEETING. THEY
WILL CONTINUE TRYING TO SALVAGE AS MUCH AS THEY CAN
OF THE ORIGINAL GISCARD PROPOSAL. BUT US
CONSIDERATION OF THIS PROBLEM SHOULD RECOGNIZE
THAT THEY HAVE MOVED OFF WHAT OSTENSIBLY
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WAS OUR PRIMARY ORIGINAL OBJECTION -- CREATION
OF A NEW "FUND." OUR READING IS THAT FROMENT-MEURICE
AND OTHERS ARE MORE FLEXIBLE THAN IMPLIED IN REFTEL
AND THAT THERE MAY WELL BE ENOUGH COMMON INTEREST
TO MAKE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WORTHWHILE. WE ALSO
HOPE THAT WASHINGTON CONSIDERATION WILL TAKE FULL
ACCOUNT OF INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES WE SHARE

WITH FRANCE AS REFLECTED, E.G. IN
SAHEL -- DESPITE ANY FALLOUT FROM SHABA. SINCE
GISCARD MAY RAISE THIS ISSUE BILATERALLY AT BONN
SUMMIT, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT A LESS TENTATIVE US
STANCE BE DEVELOPED BY THEN.
END SUMMARY

1. DURING A CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY ECONOMIC
MINISTER ON OTHER SUBJECTS PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF
REF B, QUAI ECONOMIC DIRECTOR FROMENT-MEURICE
EXPRESSED SATISFACTION ON BALANCE WITH THE
WAY THE JUNE 22-23 MEETING HAD GONE. HE WAS
PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH THE COOPERATIVE AND
CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH OF THE US DELEGATION. HE
ALSO SAID THAT HE WAS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED BY
THE POSITIVE APPROACH OF THE BRITISH DELEGATION.
HE FELT THAT THE BELGIANS AND EVEN THE GERMANS
HAD TRIED HARD, ALTHOUGH HE THOUGHT THE
FRG ATTITUDE ON SUBSTANCE WAS STILL RESERVED.
FROMENT-MEURICE WAS IN ANY CASE CONCERNED THAT,
DESPITE THE POSITIVE TENOR OF THE MEETING,
THERE WAS NO NEW MONEY IN PROSPECT FOR AFRICAN
DEVELOPMENT EXCEPT FROM FRANCE. OVERALL, HE
CLEARLY REALIZES THAT MUCH WORK WOULD REMAIN
TO BE DONE BEFORE ANY AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED
ON A JOINT AFRICAN INITIATIVE. (WE ALSO HAVE IT
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FROM A RELIABLE SOURCE THAT GISCARD RECENTLY TOLD
VISITING SAUDI CROWN PRINCE FAHD THAT HE WAS
ENCOURAGED BY THE RECENT MORE POSITIVE RESPONSE
OF OTHER WESTERN NATIONS TO HIS IDEA OF A SPECIAL
AFRICAN EFFORT.)

2. REFTEL B IS THUS CORRECT IN CONCLUDING THAT
THE FRENCH WERE GENERALLY ENCOURAGED BY THE JUNE 22-23
MEETING AND THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR AS
MUCH OF THEIR ORIGINAL PROPOSAL AS THEY CAN GET.
BUT, IN OUR VIEW, IT UNDERSTATES THE REMAINING
POTENTIAL FLEXIBILITY IN THE FRENCH POSITION.
CONTRARY TO THE IMPLICATION OF REFTEL B, EMBASSY
READING IS THAT FRANCE IS NOT DETERMINED TO PUSH
FOR A FORMAL THREE-TIERED ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE
GIVEN EVIDENT OPPOSITION FROM OTHER DELEGATIONS.
NOR DID FROMENT-MEURICE EXCLUDE LESS MODERATE
OR NON-FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES; IN FACT, THE FRENCH
ACTIVELY ENCOURAGED OTHER DELEGATIONS TO SUGGEST
ADDITIONS TO THE LIST OF COUNTRIES TO BE CONSULTED
OR ASSISTED. FROMENT-MEURICE TOOK CLEAR NOTE OF THE
US RESERVATION ABOUT IDENTIFYING THIS TYPE OF SPECIAL

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4096
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 20805

PROGRAM AS SUCH IN OUR AID BUDGET AND ABOUT THE
LIKELIHOOD OF ANY REALLY "NEW" MONEY. WHILE WE
DID NOT GAIN FRENCH "ENTHUSIASM" FOR DROPPING THE
PREPACKAGED PROGRAM APPROACH, OR FOR FOCUSING
ON IMPROVED EFFECTIVENESS OR ON THE VISIBILITY
OF CURRENT AID EFFORTS, FROMENT-MEURICE TOOK
CAREFUL NOTE OF THESE POINTS. HE SEEMED TO
REALIZE THAT THE FRENCH WILL HAVE TO TAKE ACCOUNT
OF OUR CONCERNS IF THEY ARE TO ENLIST OUR
COOPERATION.

3. COMMENT: THE ORIGINAL GISCARD PROPOSAL WAS FOR
A FORMAL, JOINTLY SUPPORTED FUND THAT WOULD CHANNEL
NEW MONEY INTO AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT. THE FRENCH
HAVE NOW MOVED AWAY FROM THE JOINT FUND CONCEPT
AND SEEM REALISTIC ABOUT THE UNLIKELIHOOD THAT
GENUINELY NEW FUNDS WILL BE FORTHCOMING FOR THE
FORSEEABLE FUTURE. BOTH DURING AND SINCE THE
JUNE 22-23 MEETING FROMENT-MEURICE AND HIS
SUBORDINATES HAVE HINTED AT FURTHER FLEXIBILITY
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ON THE OTHER ASPECTS OF THE FRENCH PROPOSAL THAT HAVE GIVEN US THE MOST TROUBLE. NATURALLY, AS LONG AS WE CONTINUE TO VOICE AGREEMENT WITH GISCARD'S GENERAL PURPOSES WITHOUT PUTTING FORTH ANY CLEAR ALTERNATIVE TO THE FRENCH PROPOSAL, WE CAN EXPECT THE FRENCH TO CONTINUE TRYING FOR MORE THAN HALF A LOAF. BUT WE DO NOT READ THEM AS BEING AS RIGID AS IMPLIED IN REF B.

CONCERNING COMMENT PARA 8 OF REF B RE POSSIBLE DRAWBACKS OF ASSOCIATING WITH FRENCH BECAUSE OF AFRICAN REACTION TO SHABA, WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT (AS POINTED OUT REF C) TO CONSIDER OVERALL FRENCH PERCEPTIONS OF THE LONG-TERM INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES THAT WE SHARE IN AFRICA AS WELL AS THE QUITE BROAD SUPPORT WHICH THE FRENCH ENJOY THROUGHOUT MUCH OF AFRICA. OUR CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE FRENCH IN AID TO THE SAHEL HAS BEEN FRUITFUL AND WELL RECEIVED BY THE AFRICANS. MOREOVER, THE FRENCH BELIEVE THAT THE US FAVORED THEIR ROLE IN SHABA, AS CONFIRMED BY OUR AIRLIFT SUPPORT FOR IT. IT WOULD LOOK TO THEM LIKE A MAJOR CHANGE OF SIGNALS BY THE US IF THE SHORT-TERM FALLOUT FROM SHABA MENTIONED IN PARA 8 OF REF B RULED OUT FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FRENCH OF POSSIBLE PARALLEL ACTION FOR STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

GIVEN THAT GISCARD MAY WELL RAISE THIS MATTER WITH PRESIDENT CARTER DURING THE BONN SUMMIT, WE SUGGEST THAT WASHINGTON SHOULD DECIDE BEFORE THEN WHETHER THERE IS ENOUGH POTENTIAL COMMON GROUND TO WARRANT FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. IF SO, WE SHOULD BEGIN PREPARING SOON FOR A FOLLOW-UP MEETING IN SEPTEMBER FOCUSING ON SPECIFIC POTENTIAL PROJECTS AND ON ALTERNATIVE ORGANIZATIONAL PROPOSALS.

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